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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA

Nuclear Engineering Training
(ARG/78/020)

Report of the Administrator *

Date of present approval:	January 1979
Starting date of project activities:	February 1979
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Government implementing agency:	National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 1 264 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The use of nuclear power in expanding the country's electrical energy production capacity has increased considerably over the past few years largely with the help of external inputs of personnel, equipment and technology. The Government is keen, however, to promote greater national participation in this sector, particularly in the construction and operation of nuclear power reactors, in carrying out research and in the production of isotopes.

2. To do this, the need for Argentinian nuclear engineers has become self-evident. To satisfy this demand, the Government therefore decided to open, as from August 1977, a specialist course in nuclear engineering at the Balseiro Institute of the Atomic Centre in Bariloche for some fifteen students, which would involve a two-year basic course followed by a three-year course of specialization.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $ 250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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II. Objectives and activities

3. The objective of the project is to increase domestic participation in the construction of the planned power reactors, in carrying out research, and in the production of isotopes, through the training of national nuclear engineers.

4. The purpose of the course in nuclear engineering is to train personnel in the fields of: (a) power reactor engineering and (b) research and development connected with reactors, fuels, components and auxiliary facilities and installations, and other related subjects.

5. UNDP assistance is being requested in particular to assist in the teaching of specialized subjects to the teaching staff who would subsequently take over the teaching of the different courses at the Institute by the end of the project.

6. During the training period scientific visits to specialized institutions will also be carried out.

III. Inputs

7. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide for the services of a Chief Technical Adviser and experts in the fields of reactor theory, thermodynamics, nuclear fields, neutron measurement, reactor design and protection from radiation; and for training and equipment.

8. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved the Government of Argentina will make available qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, supplies and equipment, directly to the project.

IV. Financial data

9. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	659 600
Training	23 000
Equipment	569 400
Miscellaneous	12 000
	1 264 000

10. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $ 5,503,000 in kind.